United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia to protect detainees about to be released from two Serb camps.

+ Former Under-Secretary-General Virendra Dayal designated as Secretary-General's Special Envoy for South Africa.

+ United Nations agencies agree to take immediate action to provide massive infusion of food aid to Somalia; present 100-day plan for humanitarian activites in that country.

+ United Nations helicopter crash-lands in northern province of Uige in Angola on Saturday, 12 September, injuring nine people.

+ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees is $20 million short of funds, according to the Agency's Commissioner-General.

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The Security Council has agreed to authorize the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia to protect detainees about to be released from two Serb camps.

In a letter to Council President José Ayala Lasso (Ecuador) asking the Council's authority, the Secretary-General recalled his proposal last week to expand the mandate of UNPROFOR and a to expand its personnel substantially. Since then, he wrote, he had received a cable from his Personal Representative Cyrus Vance seeking the Council's authority for UNPROFOR, using its existing resources, to protect some 4,000 or more Muslim and Croat detainees expected to be released shortly from Serb detention camps at Manjaca and Trnopolje.

The Secretary-General requested the Council's authority, on an exceptional basis, for UNPROFOR's limited assistance in accompanying land convoys from the camps to cransit facilities in Croatia where the detainees had asked to be taken. He said the Croatian authorities had agreed to the arrangement.

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For information media—not an official record

The Secretary-General's letter was dated 12 September.

document S/24549, S/24550

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The Secretary-General has designated former Under-Secretary-General Virendra Dayal as his special envoy to visit South Africa from 16 to 22 September where he will hold follow-up discussions in connection with the implementation of Security Council resolution 772 (1992) concerning the question of South Africa. That resolution authorized the Secretary-General to deploy United Nations observers in South Africa and invited him to assist in the strengthening of the structures set up under the National Peace Accord.

While in South Africa, Mr. Dayal will meet with senior officials of the Government and other relevant parties in regard to developments since his last visit at the end of July, when Mr. Dayal accompanied Cyrus Vance to that country. He will also meet with senior officials of the structures established by the National Peace Accord, including Justice Richard Goldstone, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry regarding the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation.

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Intensified relief efforts by a number of United Nations agencies are expected to follow a visit to Somalia by Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson and a high-level inter-agency mission, according to a statement issued by the Department for Humanitarian Affairs yesterday. After meeting with various political and clan leaders in Somalia, and with representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as with United Nations relief workers, mission members agreed to take immediate action to provide a massive infusion of food aid to the country.

Within the next 100 days the United Nations agencies committed themselves to undertake the following activities: the World Food Programme (WFP) aims to deliver an estimated 100,000 tonnes of food for general distribution, 90 per cent of it through the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayo, and the rest by air. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will target 300,000 severely malnourished children for supplementary and intensive feeding. UNICEF will conduct a massive measles vaccination programme and in close collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) will provide maternity and pediatric drugs for regional hospitals.

In coordination with the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), related to seeds, tools and livestock, and the food distribution programme of WFP, UNICEF will help resettle displaced families in their home areas. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is to establish a fulltime international presence to support programmes for

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persons returning from Ethiopia. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will undertake relief and recovery activities, giving priority to the restoration of essential basic services.

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It was confirmed today at Headquarters that a United Nations helicopter had crash-landed in the northern province of Uige in Angola on Saturday, 12 September. The accident took place in a sand storm shortly after take-off. The helicopter was funded by the European Economic Community (EEC) and assigned to the Technical Assistance Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of the elections in Angola.

There were 24 persons on board, including seven personnel of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), four crew and 13 Angolan election officials. Nine people were injured and the Russian pilot and co-pilot were incapacitated.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is $20 million short of funds, according to the Agency's Commissioner-General, Ilter Turkmen. He told representatives of United Nations Member States in Vienna that the special funding was needed to carry out essential operations to improve the quality of life for Palestine refugees.

At the annual meeting of the Agency's Advisory Commission, held at the end of last week, Mr Turkmen noted that his appeal last November for $25 million for the agency's emergency programmes - an appeal which was reissued in April - had yielded only $6.7 million. He said "important activities" were on hold until the funding could be assured.

The UNRWA Advisory Commission, which consists of representatives of ten governments, said it was essential that the agency's projects and programmes be given the necessary means to improve the the situation of the refugees. The Commission called on existing donors to increase their contributions, and asked those not already contributing to start doing so.

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